

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled.

21. (New) An apparatus for forming unit loads, comprising:

a fixture having an approximate rectangular frame, formed of at least two parallel long struts and at least two parallel short struts at the ends of the long struts, wherein transversal bars are arranged moveable on the long struts, with the ends of each bar on each long strut;

a plurality of cups attached to each transversal bar, wherein at some of the cups are arranged moveable and lockable on the transversal bars; and

a plurality of loading ledges, each ledge having at least two feet, wherein the at least two feet of the loading ledge are received in the cups, wherein one or more packages is received on the loading ledges to form the unit load and the unit load after forming is lifted from the fixture together with the loading ledges.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein a further number of intermediate, short struts are arranged between the long struts.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein two cups are arranged on each transversal bar.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein four transversal bars are received on the frame.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each movable cup has a support, having legs straddling a transversal bar and a locking screw received in an opening of one of the legs of the support.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each transversal bar has supports straddling the long sides of the frame and the supports having locking means to lock the position of the transversal bar.

27. (New) A method for forming unit loads, comprising the steps of:
arranging moveable and lockable cups on a fixture, the fixture having an approximate rectangular frame, formed of at least two parallel long struts and at least two parallel short struts at the ends of the long struts, wherein transversal bars are arranged moveable on the long struts, with the ends of each bar on each long strut and the cups are arranged on the transversal bars;

arranging a plurality of loading ledges, each loading ledge having at least two feet, on said fixture by inserting the at least two feet of the loading ledges into the cups;

placing at least one or more packages on the plurality of loading ledges to form the unit load; and

lifting the formed unit load frame the frame of the fixture together with the loading ledges.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein a further number of intermediate, short struts are arranged between the long struts.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein two cups are arranged on each transversal bar.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein four transversal bars are received on the frame.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein each movable cup has a support, having legs straddling a transversal bar and a locking screw received in an opening of one of the legs of the support.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein each transversal bar has supports straddling the long sides of the frame and the supports having locking means to lock the position of the transversal bar.